1	2	3
21.	Sikkim	1.28
22.	Tamil Nadu	43635.18
23.	Tripura	52.59
24.	Uttar Pradesh	65301.10
25.	Uttarakhand	1338.31
26.	West Bengal	42713.67
	TOTAL	1243545.25

Suicide by farmers in Eastern Uttar Pradesh

†3664. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of farmers have committed suicide during the past three years in Eastern Uttar Pradesh particularly in Mau, Azamgarh, Gorakhpur, Basti, Deoria, Balia, Gazipur, Jaunpur and Varanasi;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise, district-wise;

(c) whether Government is aware of the fact that the plight of farmers in these districts is very pathetic and they are on the verge of committing suicide in large numbers any time; and

(d) year-wise and district-wise details of the steps taken by Government for the farmers of Eastern Uttar Pradesh in such conditions during the past five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Central assistance for drought affected Karnataka

3665. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka State Government submitted to the Centre a Memorandum seeking Central assistance of Rs. 2019.55 crores on account of drought in the State in the year 2008; and

(b) if so, the extent to which State's request for drought relief has been accepted and by when the same is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) This was considered by the High Level Committee (HLC), headed by the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Union Finance Minister, in its meeting held on 1st July, 2009 and the HLC approved as under:-

(i) Rs. 83.83 crores from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) subject to the adjustment of 75% of balance available in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) account of the State.

(ii) Rs. 14.28 crores from Special Component of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), implemented by the Department of Drinking Water Supply.

Expansion of NAIS

3666. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 4 per cent of the country's farmers have availed the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) cover and more than 57 per cent farmers are unaware of crops being insured;

(b) whether a modified version of the existing insurance scheme for farmers is under examination by Government to expand the risk cover to more and more farmers;

(c) whether the present crop insurance scheme covers 23 States and 2 UTs and whether the Agricultural Insurance Corporation is insisting for a hike in premium for expanded coverage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir. At present, about 15.8% of total farmer's holdings are being covered under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS). For better awareness about the scheme and to expand its coverage, particularly for non-loanee farmers, publicity campaigns both in print and electronic media through States/implementing agency is carried out.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) NAIS, at present, is being implemented by 25 States and 2 Union Territories.

No, Sir. For normal risk coverage (sum insured) flat premium rates ranging between 1.5% to 3.5% for food (including pulses), oilseeds and actuarial rates for annual commercial/ horticultural crops are being charged. In case farmer wants to avail higher level of risk coverage (upto 150% of sum insured) commercial/actuarial rates of premium would be charged in respect of food and oilseed crops.

Alternative arrangements to tackle the uncertainty of monsoon

3667. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: